

Greetings,

I am writing to lend my support to the petition to keep the morse code requirement for access to the HF Bands, as well as the increase to 13 WPM for the Amateur Extra class.

Learning morse code is not such a great obstacle, certainly not 5 WPM.

Neophytes who learn the code will be better operators.

Not only will they be more versatile but will learn to be concise and deliberate.

While it is important to cater the licensing curriculum to encourage new folks to come aboard and advance we must be cautious not to foster a "Dumbing Down".

Recently in taking my Extra I had to learn about modes that I will never use and am not interested in, but I did because it was part of the process.

CW is no different.

It does take more commitment than much of the theory, but 5 wpm is not that great of a hurdle.

Since digital modes are becoming more popular on the air, would not a working knowledge of our most fundamental digital mode also foster greater understanding of what could fast become our dominant way of communication?

Thank you for your time, and ongoing work to maintain good operating standards.